

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 H-01 DHA-02 IO-13

L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 /069 W

-----172119Z 037875 /66

R 171115Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3612

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4649

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, SHUM, CG

SUBJECT: AMERICAN MISSIONARIES IN HOSTILE HELD TERRITORY

REF: STATE 111510

1. AS SITREPS ON SHABA INVASION HAVE REPORTED SINCE APRIL 16 NEITHER CONSULATE OR METHODISTS IN LUBUMBASHI AND KINSHASA HAVE HAD ANY CONTACT WITH AMERICAN MISSIONARIES IN OCCUPIED TOWNS OF KAPANGA AND SANDOA. SITREPS IN LAST WEEK HAVE ALSO REPORTED THAT FAZ FORCES ARE SLOWLY ADVANCING ON THESE TOWNS BUT ARE STILL SOMEWHAT FAR AWAY. WE ARE UNSURE WHETHER MISSIONARIES ARE IN THE TOWNS OR HAVE BEEN REMOVED, ALTHOUGH WE WERE GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND FROM A CATHOLIC PRIEST THAT THEY MAY STILL BE IN KAPANGA AREA AT LEAST. ACCORDING TO THIS MISSIONARY, WHO HAD BEEN IN RADIO CONTACT WITH HIS MISSION IN KAPANGA OVER A WEEK AGO, "ALL" (CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT) MISSIONARIES WERE WELL. SINCE THAT TIME, HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN NO COMMUNICATION WITH THE OCCUPIED TOWNS.

2. AS REGARDS THE ICRC REPRESENTATIVE WHOSE NAME IS GUY BEDER AND NOT URICH BEDERTA, HE IS NOW IN GENEVA CONSULTING WITH HIS HEADQUARTERS. BEDER SPENT CLOSE TO THREE WEEKS IN KINSHASA
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ATTEMPTING TO GO DOWN TO SHABA. ACCORDING TO HIM, HIS MISSION WAS TO INVESTIGATE THE SITUATION IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER ICRC SHOULD GET INVOLVED. ALSO, WE UNDERSTAND HE WAS CONCERNED WITH THE EFFECTS OF THE MILITARY SITUATION IN GENERAL AND NOT SOLELY WITH THE PROBLEM OF MISSIONARIES IN THE OCCUPIED ZONES. AT NO TIME DID HE MENTION THAT THERE WAS TO BE CONTACT WITH THE INVADERS ON THIS MATTER BY HIM OR SOMEONE ELSE FROM THE ANGOLAN

END. OUTSIDE OF HIS BASIC MANDATE HE APPARENTLY WAS TO BE A CHANNEL FOR A MESSAGE FROM THE METHODIST BOARD IN NY TO KEN ENRIGHT IN KOLWEZI REGARDING WHETHER THE LATTER WISHED TO STAY IN ZAIRE. FACED WITH REFUSAL TO GRANT HIM PERMISSION TO GO TO SHABA, BEDER FELT HE SHOULD RETURN TO GENEVA. HE WAS NOT REPEAT NOT EXPELLED. AS FAR AS WE KNOW HE IS LIKELY TO COME BACK IF ONLY TO SHOW ICRC INTEREST, EMBASSY WILL LOOK INTO MATTER FURTHER AND ADVISE.

3. EMBASSY IS PREPARED TO REITERATE US CONCERN OVER FATE OF MISSIONARIES AND TO SEEK GOZ AGREEMENT FOR ICRC INTERVENTION, AND WILL DO SO AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.
CUTLER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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